

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 764 without my signature.

This bill would extend the sunset date for the California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP) and Statewide Education Technology Services (SETS) programs from January 1, 2009 to January 1, 2014.

While I am supportive of these projects and their reauthorization, I have concerns about the additional requirements this bill would impose on the CTAP regions. Increasing the responsibilities of regional agencies to include prescribed reporting and other duties may be unduly prescriptive and could inadvertently take away from direct technology assistance in schools. Furthermore, I also have concerns about extending the time of the grant awards from three to six years. Specifically, I fear that extending the time of these awards may lock regions into unnecessarily long contracts which might prohibit them from making future necessary programmatic changes that would benefit our schools and our children.

Since these programs do not sunset until January 1, 2009, it is not imperative that they be reauthorized at this time, particularly with provisions that could hinder their ability to incorporate needed reforms.

I look forward to working with the author, educators, and education leaders in the upcoming year to reexamine these programs and how they can best support the needs of our education system.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger